

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-6, 8, 11-23 and 28-47 are pending. Claims 7, 9, 10 and 24-27 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 7, 9 and 10. Editorial revisions have been made in the original dependent claims to reflect the revisions to claim 1. New independent claim 28 reflects original claim 20 written in independent form. A set of dependent claims has been provided for claim 28 to round out the scope of protection.

The rejection of claims 1-9, 11-19 and 22-23 as obvious over EP 898273 in view of Goto is rendered moot by the inclusion of the features of claim 10 in claim 1. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection. Independent claim 28 and its dependent claims are free from the prior art as claim 28 includes the features of original claim 20, which was not subjected to the rejection.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested.



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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas P. Mueller".

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